

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 939

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Barbara Mandrell upon her fiftieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those gifted artists who have experienced great success in the world of country music; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Mandrell, one of country music's most beloved daughters, will celebrate her fiftieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry on July 29, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a native of Houston, Texas, Ms. Mandrell hails from a musical family; by the age of five, she was reading music and playing the accordion, and six years later, she caught the attention of industry giant Chet Atkins and West Coast singer Joe Maphis when she played steel guitar at a music trade convention in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, her career was off to an auspicious start, with Mr. Maphis inviting her to be a featured performer on his Las Vegas nightclub show; she made her television debut on *Five Star Jubilee* in 1961 and performed on the Los Angeles-based *Town Hall Party*; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Ms. Mandrell signed with Columbia Records, releasing "I've Been Loving You Too Long," under the tutelage of producer Billy Sherrill, with whom she had several Top 40 hits; and

WHEREAS, moving to ABC/Dot in 1978, Barbara Mandrell scored her first No. 1, "Sleeping Single in a Double Bed," with producer Tom Collins; the team produced multiple hit singles and albums, including the pop-crossover single "(If Loving You Is Wrong) I Don't Want To Be Right"; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her career, Ms. Mandrell garnered multiple best-selling albums, starred in several movies, and penned an autobiography; she received the Country

Music Association's Entertainer of the Year Award twice, as well as Female Vocalist honors twice, and in 2009, she was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Mandrell became a household name when her variety show, *Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell Sisters*, debuted on NBC; however, by 1982, she was suffering from vocal strain and, under doctor's orders, quit the successful show; and

WHEREAS, her final performance took place on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House in 1997 with a television special called *The Last Dance*; she said she chose the venue because it felt like her home; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mandrell was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on July 29, 1972, a most befitting honor for this country music legend, whose contributions and influence have only grown since that time; and

WHEREAS, it is the dream of every country music artist to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry and perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House, and it is most fitting that Barbara Mandrell be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Barbara Mandrell upon her fiftieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, commend her illustrious career in country music, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.